BISHOPSGATE WITHOUT

Forasmuch as Many and Various, have been the Reports Concerning me, which have been Induſtriouſly (altho' falſly) ſpread up and down both City and Country; and in particular concerning my being Baptized, I think to give the World this following Account in that particular, Concerning Baptiſm: To which I ſhall add a Scripture Collection by way of Teſtiſtimony relating thereunto.

WHereas it hath been frequently reported, that my ſelf and Wife, have been ptized at ſeveral Pariſh Churches, is d about *London*, which Report is a'to-ther falſe; but take now the Truth from y own Mouth, ſigned by my own hand, . About forty years paſt from the te hereof, both my ſelf and Wife was ptized according to the Practiſe of the urch of *England*, in which Faith, Doine, and Practice we were for ſome time ucated but ſo it happen'd that our rents joyning in Communion with the ople called *Quakers*, the latter part of r Education was changed into that way,

(diff'ring from the former part of the Conduct of our Life) in which we became Zealous, not only to reject the Inſtitutions of Chriſt in that matter of Baptiſm, but alſo the Supper (and Taught others to do the like) which our Lord Inſtituted in the days of his Fleſh, and appointed to continue as ſtanding Ordinances in his Church, untill his coming again at the laſt and Great Day, wherein all Nations ſhall appear before him, to give an Account of the Deeds done in the Body, whether good or evil.

And being through the Merciful Providence of God convinced in the Year 1698, that the Commands of Chriſt ought to be obeyed and Practiſed by all ſincere Chriſtians: We do hereby for our ſelves, and on the behalf of many others of our Friends, freely acknowledge our Errour in that matter, and ſeriouſly recommend to all thoſe who have rejected the ſame, as we have done, what followeth; hoping it may be of Service to ſome, eſpecially to thoſe with whom the Holy Scriptures are in Eſteem; and as for thoſe that will not be convinced by Scripture-Teſtimony, it's not all the Volumes that can be Publiſhed (on that head) will be of any Service to them; So being well ſatisfied with that Baptiſm that we have Received, we ſee no cauſe to ſeek after any other, neither is it required of us.

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A SCRPTURE *Collection, by way of Queſtion and Anſwer, concerning* BAPTISM *and the* LORD's SUPPER: *Plainly ſhewing it to be the Duty of all Chriſtians to be found in the Practice thereof. And as for thoſe that through their Willfullneſs live in the neglect thereof, cannot in no wiſe be Eſteemed Chriſtians; for it's moſt abſurd for any (let their Pretenſions be what it will) to account themſelves Chriſtians, and to oppoſe the poſitive Commands of Chriſts Holy Inſtitutions; and not only ſo to do themſelves, but to Teach and Seduce others to do the ſame, is a moſt vile and Antichriſtian Error.*

Queſtion. DID Chriſt command his Diſciples to go and Teach all Nations, Baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghoſt?

Anſwer. *And Jeſus came and ſpake unto them ſaying, All Power is given unto me in Heaven and in Earth, go ye therefore and Preach unto them, Baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghoſt: Teaching them to Obſerve all things whatſoever I have Commanded you.* Mat. 28. 18, 19.

Queſt. Did Chriſt command his Diſciples to go into all the World, and Preach the Goſpel to every Creature; with a Promiſe

Promiſe, that he that Believeth and is Baptized ſhall be Saved?

Anſ. *And he ſaid unto them, Go ye into all the World, and Preach the Goſpel to every Creature; he that Believeth and is Baptized ſhall be ſaved; but he that Believeth not ſhall be Damned.* Mark 16. 15, 16. *Verſes?*

Queſt. Did the Apoſtle *Peter* command them that Received his Word to Repent and be Baptized in the Name of Jeſus Chriſt, for the Remiſſion of Sins.

Anſ. *Then* Peter *ſaid unto them, Repent and be Baptized, every one of you, in the Name of Jeſus Chriſt, for the Remiſſion of Sins, and ye ſhall Receive the Gift of the Holy Ghoſt: Then they that gladly Received his Word were Baptized,* Acts 2. 38, 41.

Queſt. Did the Apoſtle *Peter* command *Cornelius* and his Friends (who had Received the Holy Ghoſt) to be Baptized in the Name of the Lord?

Anſ. *Then anſwered* Peter, *Can any Man forbid Water, that theſe ſhould not be Baptized, which have Received the Holy Ghoſt as well as we? And he commanded them to be Baptized in the Name of the Lord,* Acts the 10. 47, 48.

Queſt. Were thoſe of the City of *Samaria,* who Believed thro' *Phillips* Preaching Chriſt to them, Baptized by him?

Anſ. *Then Phillip went down to the City of* Samaria, *and Preached Chriſt unto them, and the People gave heed unto thoſe things*

which Phillip *ſpake, hearing and ſeeing the Miracles which he did; and when they Believed* Phillips *Preaching the things concerning the Kingdom of God, and the Name of Jeſus Chriſt, they were Baptized, both Men and Women.* Acts 8. 5, 6, 12.

Queſt. Did not Paul ſay that *John*'s Baptiſm was of Repentance, and that they ſhould believe on Chriſt, and therefore were they not Baptized in the Name of the Lord Jeſus, although they had been Baptized unto *John*'s Baptiſm already?

Anſ. *And he ſaid unto them, Unto what then were ye Baptized? They ſaid, Unto* Johns *Baptiſm. Then ſaid* Paul, John *verily Baptized with the Baptiſm of Repentance, Saying unto the People, that they ſhould believe on him which ſhould come after him, that is, on Chriſt Jeſus; when they heard this, they were Baptized in the Name of the Lord Jeſus.* Acts 19. 3, 4, 5.

Queſt. Did Chriſt command his Diſciples to Eat that Bread, and Drink that Cup in Remembrance of his Death, whoſe Body was broken, and whoſe Blood was ſhed for the Remiſſion of Sins?

Anſ. *And as they were Eating, Jeſus took Bread and Bleſſed it, and Brake it, and gave it to his Diſciples, and ſaid, Take, Eat, this is my Body; and he took the Cup and gave Thanks, and gave it to them, ſaying, Drink ye all of it, for this is my Blood of the new Teſtament which is ſhed for many, for the Remiſſion*

miſſion of Sins, Mat. 16. 26. 27. *And he took Bread and gave Thanks, and Brake, and gave unto them, ſaying, This is my Body, which is given for you, this do in Remembrance of me: Likewiſe alſo the Cup after Supper, ſaying, This Cup is the New Teſtament in my Blood, which is ſhed for you.* Luke the 22. 19, 20?

Queſt. Did the Apoſtle *Paul* praiſe the Church at *Corinth* in that they kept the Ordinances which he Receiv'd of the Lord and Delivered unto them? And did not he ſay unto them, *As often as ye Eat this Bread, and Drink this Cup, ye do ſhew the Lords Death till he come?*

Anſ. *Now I praiſe you Bretheren that you Remember me in all things, and keep the Ordinances as I delivered unto you, that the Lord Jeſus, the ſame Night in which he was Betrayed, took Bread, and when he had given Thanks he Brake it, and ſaid, Take, Eat, this is my Body which is Broken for you; this do in Remembrance of me. After the ſame manner alſo he took the Cup, when he had Supped, ſaying, This Cup is the New Teſtament in my Blood; this do ye, as oft as ye Drink it, in Remembrance of me: For as oft as ye Eat this Bread, and Drink this Cup, ye do ſhew the Lords Death till he comes,* 1 *Cor.* 11. 2, 24, 25, 26. 27?

Queſt. Did the Primitive Chriſtians Practiſe the uſe of theſe Ordinances of Baptiſm and the Lord Supper?

Anſ. *Then they that gladly Received his Word*

Word, were Baptized and the ſame Day there were added unto them about three Thouſand Souls, and they continued ſtedfaſtly in the Apoſtles Doctrine, and in Fellowſhip, and in Breaking of Bread, and in Prayer, Acts 2. 41.

Read alſo *John* the 3d. and 5th. verſe, Jeſus *anſwered, Verily, Verily, I ſay unto thee, except a Man be born of Water, and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the Kingdom of God*; alſo verſ. 22, 23, 26. And there you ſhall find not only *John* to be Baptizing at *Enon* near to *Salim*; but Chriſt alſo tarried with them in the Land of *Judea*, and Baptized.

St John 4. 1. 2. 3. *When therefore the Lord knew how the Phariſees had heard that Jeſus made and Baptized more Diſciples than* John *(though Jeſus himſelf Baptized not, but his Diſciples) he left* Judea *and departed again into* Galilee. A Text ſufficient to prove the practiſe of Baptizing with water was owned, and inſtituted by our Saviour himſelf; for he never gave Commiſſion to his Diſciples to Baptize with the Holy-Ghoſt, that being only peculiar to himſelf, for we find thoſe that had received the Holy Ghoſt was Baptized with Water in the Name of the Lord *Acts*, 10. 47 48.

I need ſay no more, but theſe Scripture-Teſtimonies are a ſufficient Demonſtrati-

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on to prove it to be the indiſpenſible Duty of all to believe on the Lord Jeſus Chriſt, and be Baptized into the Faith of him, having our Hearts Exerciſed in continual Remembrance of his Death and Bloody Paſſion, that he endured on the Croſs, which was due to us by Reaſon of our Sins; hereby as our Faculties comes to be thus Livingly Exercis'd through Faith in him, we may find forgiveneſs and Repentance, with ſo Gracious a Redeemer (even Jeſus of *Nazareth*) who now in his Glorified Body Remaineth in Heaven a moſt Bleſſed Mediator and Interceſſor with the Father for all thoſe that ſhall come to God by him.

☞ Obſerve, In the Commiſſion that was given by Chriſt, *Mathew* 28 and 19. there is no more mention made of Outward Teaching, then of Outward Baptiſm; and the People called Quakers, may as well reject Teaching, with Words, as Baptizing with Water.

John Spire, Junior.

London September 4*th*. 1700.

FINIS.